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REMARKS

Claims 1-41 are pending in the above-identified patent application. By this Amendment Applicant has amended claims 1, 19 and 27 in order to further define the present invention.

The Abstract has been amended in response to the Examiner's objection to the Abstract set forth in the above Office Action. In particular, these amendments to the Abstract have shortened its length to 150 words or less.

Applicant is appreciative of the time taken by the Examiner to discuss the present application with the undersigned during a telephonic interview on March 16, 2004. During the interview the Examiner and the undersigned discussed various aspects of the claims and the nature of amendments to the claims which could result in the definition of potentially patentable subject matter. In particular, the Examiner directed attention to the subject matter defined by claim 8, and the Examiner and the undersigned discussed potential amendments to the pending claims in view of this subject matter.

In the above Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-41 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,911,143 issued to Deinhart et al. ("Deinhart") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,092,050 issued to Lungren et al ("Lungren").

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's full consideration of Applicant's arguments filed on October 10, and the Examiner's responses to those arguments set forth in the above Office Action. For the sake of brevity, Applicant does not again repeat each argument made in support of patentability of the pending claims previously set forth on October 10, 2003, but rather incorporates herein the portion of those arguments relevant to the pending claims and draws the Examiner's attention to the additional points below.

Applicant observes that each of the pending independent claims 1, 19 and 27 now lack recitations directed to "navigation among a plurality of data objects". As the Examiner appears to have relied upon the Lungren reference only with regard to this "navigation" representation in connection with rejection of independent claims 1, 19 and 27, Applicant respectfully submits that Lungren is no longer relevant to the subject matter of these independent claims.

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appear to be completely unrelated and discrete entities, and lack any mutual relationship necessary to define a project tree.

Applicant thus respectfully requests reconsideration of the patentability of pending independent claims 1, 19 and 27 in view of the amendments herein and arguments set forth above. As the remainder of the claims in the present application dependent from these independent claims, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding rejections of these claims as well.

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments made herein prior to further examination of the above-identified application. The undersigned would of course be available to discuss the present application with the Examiner if, in the opinion of the Examiner, such a discussion could lead to resolution of any outstanding issues.

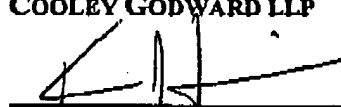
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 03-3117.

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